Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A mold apparatus ~~and a mixture for use therein~~ comprising:

~~a mixture comprising a skin when the mixture is baked, and~~

~~a mold apparatus comprising,~~

a cavity having a cavity inner surface; and

a gap in communication with the cavity and the exterior of the mold apparatus for venting vapor or steam;

wherein the gap comprises a first portion which extends in a substantially continuous manner along the cavity inner surface, wherein the first portion has a width that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.030 inches and a length that is substantially greater than said width;

wherein the gap further comprises a second portion in communication with the first portion wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion; and

~~wherein the cavity is configured to hold the skin of the mixture in contact with the cavity inner surface and the gap, and~~

wherein the gap is configured such that in combination with a mixture comprising a skin, which is created under baking conditions after the mixture is added to the cavity, vapor or steam is vented from the cavity without escape of a significant amount of the mixture from the cavity and without substantial clogging of the gap with material from the vapor or steam.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The mold apparatus of claim 1 wherein when the mixture is added to the mold apparatus, formation of vapor and steam causes the mixture to substantially fill the cavity.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The mold apparatus of claim ~~4~~ 1 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

6. (Currently amended) The mold apparatus of claim ~~5~~ 1 wherein the first portion of the gap has a ~~length~~ depth that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

7. (Currently amended) A mold apparatus ~~and a mixture for use therein~~ comprising:

~~a mixture comprising a skin when the mixture is baked, and~~

~~a mold apparatus comprising,~~

a male mold half;

a female mold half wherein contact of the male mold half and the female mold half forms a cavity having an inner cavity surface in a desired shape; and

a gap ~~for venting vapor~~ in communication with the cavity and the exterior of the mold apparatus for venting vapor or steam;

wherein the gap comprises a first portion which extends in a substantially continuous manner along the cavity inner surface, wherein the first portion has a width that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.030 inches and a length that is substantially greater than said width;

wherein the gap further comprises a second portion in communication with the first portion wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion; and

~~wherein the cavity is configured to hold the skin of the mixture in contact with the cavity inner surface and the gap, and~~

wherein the gap is configured such that in combination with a mixture comprising a skin, which is created under baking conditions after the mixture is added to the cavity, vapor or steam is vented from the cavity without escape of a significant amount of the mixture from the cavity and without substantial clogging of the gap with material from the vapor or steam.

8. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein when the mixture is added to the mold apparatus the formation of vapor and steam causes the mixture to substantially fill the cavity.

9. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a press or other clamping mechanism to hold the male mold half in contact with the female mold half.

10. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 8 further comprising a fastener to hold the male mold half in contact with the female mold half.

11. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 8 wherein the female mold further comprises a first half and a second half held together by a removable fastener, and the gap.

12. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 11 wherein the ~~gap is further comprised of a~~ first portion is in communication with the cavity and the~~a~~ second portion is in communication with the first portion and the exterior of the mold apparatus ~~and wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim ~~12~~ 7 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

14. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim ~~13~~ 7 wherein the first portion of the gap has a ~~length~~ depth in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

15. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 12 wherein the gap is along the horizontal axis of the mold apparatus.

16. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 15 wherein the second portion of the gap is in communication with a channel which is in communication with the exterior of the mold apparatus.

17. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 16 wherein the gap is formed by grooves in at least one of the first half or second half when the first half and the second half are in contact.

18. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 12 wherein the gap is along the vertical axis of the mold apparatus.

19. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 18 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

20. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 19 wherein the first portion of the gap has a ~~length~~ depth in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

21. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 18 wherein the gap is formed by grooves in at least one of the first half or second half when the first half and the second half are in contact.

22. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 8 wherein the male mold further comprises a first half and a second half held together by a removable fastener and the gap.

23. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 22 wherein the ~~gap is further comprised of a~~ first portion is in communication with the cavity and ~~a~~ the second portion is in communication with the first portion and the exterior of the mold apparatus and wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion.

24. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 23 wherein the gap is along the horizontal axis of the cavity.

25. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 24 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

26. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 25 wherein the first portion of the gap has a ~~length~~ depth in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

27. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 24 wherein the second portion of the gap is in communication with a channel which is in communication with the outside of the mold apparatus.

28. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 27 wherein the gap is formed by grooves in at least one of the first half or second half when the first half and the second half are in contact.

29. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 23 wherein the gap is along the vertical axis of the mold apparatus.

30. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 29 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

31. (Currently Amended) The mold apparatus of claim 30 wherein the first portion of the gap has a ~~length~~ depth in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

32. (Original) The mold apparatus of claim 29 wherein the gap is formed by grooves in at least one of the first half or second half when the first half and the second half are in contact.

33. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

adding a mixture to a mold apparatus having a cavity; and

baking the mixture in the mold apparatus until the mixture is form stable;

wherein upon contact of the mixture with the surface of the cavity, a skin is formed on the outer surface of the mixture; and

wherein the mold apparatus comprises a gap such that vapor can exit the cavity of the mold through the gap without substantial loss of the mixture through the gap.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein the skin allows vapor to exit the cavity of the mold through the gap without essentially any loss of the mixture through the gap.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 further comprising the step of heating the mold apparatus prior to addition of the mixture.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein pressure from formation of vapor during heating causes the mixture to substantially fill the cavity of the mold apparatus.

37. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein, under the pressure produced by formation of vapor during heating, the skin is permeable to the vapor but is not permeable to the mixture at the gap.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33 wherein the gap further comprises a first portion and a second portion wherein the second portion is wider than the first portion.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 38 wherein the first portion of the gap has a width that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 0.015 inches.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 39 wherein the first portion of the gap has a length that is in a range from about 0.001 inches to about 2 inches.

41. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along at least 10 percent of a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

42. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along at least 50 percent of a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

43. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

44. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along at least 10 percent of a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

45. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along at least 50 percent of a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

46. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the first portion extends in a substantially continuous manner along a perimeter of the cavity inner surface.

47. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 1 wherein the gap spans a distance extending from the cavity to the exterior of the mold apparatus.

48. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the gap spans a distance extending from the cavity to the exterior of the mold apparatus.

49. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the gap is formed only in the male mold half.

50. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the gap is formed only in the female mold half.

51. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the only communication between the cavity and exterior of the mold is through the gap.

52. (New) The mold apparatus of claim 7 wherein the gap is formed between said male and female mold halves upon contact of said halves and the first portion of the gap extends in a substantially continuous manner along the perimeter of the cavity inner surface.